

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1601
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2003
JOINT NAVAL EXERCISE WITH RUSSIA
CHANDRA NATH SINGH;NIVEDITA MANE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a joint naval exercise of the Indo-Russian Navy was organised recently near Socotra islands in the West Arabian sea;
- (b) if so, the number of warships and personnel participated in this exercise;
- (c) the expenditure incurred thereon;
- (d) the benefits accrued therefrom;
- (e) whether any proposal for joint exercises by armed forces in near future is pending before the Government; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, country-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

- (a) No, Sir. The joint exercises between the navies of India and Russia were carried out on the western seaboard between Mumbai and Goa from May 23, 2003 to May 24, 2003 and on the eastern seaboard, off Vishakhapatnam from June 1, 2003 to June 2, 2003.
- (b) & (c): It will not be in public interest to divulge further details regarding these joint exercises.
- (d) Strategic and operational benefits have accrued from these exercises.
- (e) Yes, Sir.
- (f) It will not be in public interest to disclose further details.